Kindly amend the present application in the following respects:

In the claims:

17. (Thrice Amended) A method for the *in vitro* proliferation of a multipotent neural stem cell comprising the steps of:

(a) dissociating mammalian neural tissue containing at least one multipotent neural stem cell to separate said multipotent neural stem cell from said tissue, said multipotent neural stem cell being capable of producing progeny that are capable of differentiating into neurons and glia; [and]

(b) preparing a culture medium containing at least one predetermined growth factor capable of inducing multipotent neural stem cell proliferation;

[(b)] (c) preparing a primary culture by adding [exposing] said [dissociated] multipotent neural stem cell to [a first] said culture medium; [containing at least one growth factor]

(d) proliferating said multipotent neural stem cell in said primary culture to produce progeny of said multipotent neural stem cell[,] which includes daughter multipotent neural stem cells; and

[(c)] (e) [passaging] preparing a secondary culture by transferring said progeny to [a second] fresh culture medium containing at least one predetermined growth factor capable of inducing multipotent neural stem cell proliferation to proliferate said daughter multipotent neural stem cells to produce more progeny which include more daughter multipotent neural stem cells.

89. (Twice Amended) The method of Claim 17 wherein step [(c)] (e) is repeated.

90. (Twice Amended) The method of Claim 17 further comprising the additional step of:

(f) [(d)] inducing the progeny proliferated in step [(c)] (e) to differentiate by plating said progeny on a fixed substrate.

91. (Twice Amended) The method of Claim 17 further comprising the additional step of:

(f) [(d)] inducing the progeny proliferated in step [(c)] (e) to differentiate in suspension by allowing said progeny to form clonally-derived neurospheres without reinitiating proliferation.

93. (Twice Amended) The method of Claim 17 wherein the progeny produced in step [(b)] (d) grow in the form of a clonally-derived neurosphere.

94. (Amended) The method of Claim 93 wherein [the passaging of said progeny in step (c) is achieved by dissociating] prior to step (e) said neurosphere is dissociated to form a suspension of single cells [and suspending said cells in said second] which is transferred to said fresh culture medium in step (e).

Please add the following claim:

--95. The method of claim 17 wherein said multipotent neural stem cell is capable of producing progeny that are capable of differentiating into astrocytes.

--